distance of 1277 Kms. has gone up from Rs. 333.20 to Rs. 400.70 per tonne and for the distance of 1270 Kms. from Rs. 328.10 to 394.70 per tonne.

(c) Does not arise.

अमरीकी अधिकारियों द्वारा "अग्नि" प्रक्षेपास्त्र के प्रक्षेपण की आलोचना

*138. **श्री शान्ति त्यागी :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीकी अधिकारियों ने भारत द्वारा "अग्नि" प्रक्षेपास्त्र के प्रस्तावित प्रक्षेपण की आलोचना की है और क्या उन्होंने इस संबंध में कोई आपत्ति उठाई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर भारत की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पी.वी. नरसिंह राव) : (क) अमरीकी राजदूतावास ने यह कहा था कि :

> "हमने दूसरे देशों की तरह भारत के समक्ष भी अपना यह मत व्यक्त किया था कि बेलिस्टिक प्रक्षेपास्त्रों का फैलाव अगर और बढ़ता है तो इससे क्षेत्रीय तनाव और बढ़ेंगे और यह भी हो सकता है कि इस तरह के हथियारों की होड़ बढ़ जाये । हमने यह भी स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि हमारी नीति इस बात को सुनिश्चित करना है कि अमरीकी निर्यात और उच्च प्रौद्योगिकी सहयोग के अन्य रूपों से बेलेस्टिक प्रक्षेपास्त्रों के फैलाव में योगदान न मिले ।"

(ख) सरकार ने कई अवसरों पर अमरीकी सरकार के समक्ष अपनी यह मंशा जाहिर की है कि वह "इंटिग्रेटिड गाइडिड मिसाइल डवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम" से संबद्ध देशीय प्रौद्योगिकियों को विकसित करना चाहती है और उनका परीक्षण करना चाहती है क्योंकि ये भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संबंधी आवश्यकताओं के लिये अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण है ।

Purchase of aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines

*139. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by Air-India and Indian Airlines respectively during 1988-89;

(b) what is the estimated profit likely to be earned by each during 1989-90; and

(c) what is the likely expenditure to be incurred for the purchase of new aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During 1988-89, Air India and Indian Airlines have estimated to earn a profit of Rs. 30 crores and Rs. 38.10 crores respectively.

(b) During 1989-90, Air India and Indian Airlines have budgeted a profit of Rs. 23 crores and Rs. 9.15 crores respectively.

(c) During 1989-90, while Air India does not propose to purchase any additional aircraft, Indian Airlines will receive 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft, related spare engines, spare parts and equipment at a total cost of Rs. 1444.02 crores including a foreign exchange content US $ 951.863 million.

Blast at Calcutta Airport

*140. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Indian Express on the 14th April, 1989, under the caption

'Private Courier's hand in airport blast';

(b) whether Government are aware of the involvement of private couriers behind the explosion in the Calcutta International Airport on the 12th April, 1989; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to investigate the matter thoroughly and to take steps to check effectively the shady operations of unscrupulous private couriers which were reported to be responsible for most of the air disasters which occurred in different parts of the country recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. However, the explosion occurred on 11th April, 1989.

(c) West Bengal Police have registered a case in this connection and have arrested two employees of the courier.

Observation of ceasefire by IPKF in Sri Lanka

@789. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka Government has asked the IPKF to observe ceasefire against the LTTE in the north-east during the Tamil new year, which falls in the middle of April;

(b) what is the total number of IPKF soldiers killed during March-April 1989 separately; and

(c) by when the IPKF forces are likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) A ceasefire was announced by the Sri Lankan Government which was rejected by the LTTE.

(b) March—36 killed, April 1—15, 23 killed.

(c) The withdrawal of the IPKF has to be seen in the context of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and the ground situation. No specific time frame can be given.

Non-availability of medicines in Railway Hospital Lallaguda, Secundrabad, Andhra Pradesh

784. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some medicines are not available in Railway Hospital, Lallaguda, Secundrabad, Andhra Pradesh; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken by his Ministry to provide more facilities to the above hospital; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that hospital authorities are purchasing medicines from local chemists, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) All essential medicines required are available at Railway Hospital, Lallaguda, though these may not be under specific brand names.

(b) The work of increasing the bed strength of this hospital has been sanctioned and included in the Works Programme of 1989-90.

(c) Some times special drugs, drugs with short shelf-life or drugs which run short due to sudden spurt in the incidence of a particular disease etc. have to be procured locally.

@Previously Unstarred Question 217 transferred from the 25th April, 1989.